



Foreign Policy -- Defense -- Documents on the web -- May 2009

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS :

The White House

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT D-DAY 65TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY

The White House, Office of the Press Secretary. Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, Normandy, France. June 6, 2009.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-at-D-Day-65th-Anniversary-Ceremony/

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT OBAMA, GERMAN CHANCELLOR MERKEL, AND ELIE WIESEL AT BUCHENWALD CONCENTRATION CAMP

The White House, Office of the Press Secretary. Weimar, Germany. June 5, 2009.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-President-Obama-German-Chancellor-Merkel-and-Elie-Wiesel-at-Buchenwald-Concentration-Camp-6-5-09/

THE UNITED STATES AND THE 2009 SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS: SECURING OUR CITIZENS' FUTURE

The White House, Office of the Press Secretary. April 19, 2009.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/The-United-States-and-the-2009-Summit-of-the-Americas-Securing-Our-Citizens-Future/

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT OBAMA TO THE TURKISH PARLIAMENT

The White House, Office of the Press Secretary. April 6, 2009.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-By-President-Obama-To-The-Turkish-Parliament/

FY2010 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Office of Management and Budget. Executive Office of the President of the United States.
Extracts from *A New Era of Responsibility: Renewing America's Promise*.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

4 pages.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/fy2010_new_era/Department_of_Defense.pdf

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

2 pages.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/fy2010_new_era/Department_of_Homeland_Security.pdf

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

4 pages.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/fy2010_new_era/Department_of_State_and_Other_International_Programs1.pdf

Department of State

PRESS AVAILABILITY WITH EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AHMED ALI ABOUL GHEIT
Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State. Benjamin Franklin Room, Washington, DC. May 27, 2009.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/05/124009.htm>

FY 2010 BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State. Before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. May 20, 2009.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/05/123679.htm>

FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES IN THE PRESIDENT'S FY2010 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUDGET

Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State. Testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. May 20, 2009.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/05/123692.htm>

REMARKS AT THE 39TH WASHINGTON CONFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS

Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State. Loy Henderson Auditorium, Washington, DC. May 13, 2009.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/05/123442.htm>

STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL ENCOURAGES DIALOG WITH MUSLIM WORLD

By Ralph Dannheisser, Special Correspondent. May 12, 2009.

<http://www.america.gov/st/democracyhr-english/2009/May/20090512115531HMnietsuA0.8662836.html>

Obama and his administration are fully committed to pursuing “a deep and positive dialogue with Muslims around the world based on mutual respect and in support of our mutual interests,” according to a key State Department official. The magnitude of the challenges faced makes it vital to go beyond interactions between governments to “reach out and develop partnerships with all elements of civil society,” said acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs Madelyn Spirnak.

COUNTRY REPORTS ON TERRORISM 2008

By the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism. Department of State. April 30, 2009.

<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2008/index.htm>

U.S. law requires the Secretary of State to provide Congress, by April 30 of each year, a full and complete report on terrorism with regard to those countries and groups meeting criteria set forth in the legislation. This annual report is entitled Country Reports on Terrorism. Beginning with the report for 2004, it replaced the previously published Patterns of Global Terrorism.

Department of Defense

MEASURING STABILITY AND SECURITY IN IRAQ

Report to Congress, in accordance with the Department of Defense Supplemental Appropriations Act 2008 (Section 9204, Public Law 110-252). March 2009. 70 pages.

http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pdfs/Measuring_Stability_and_Security_in_Iraq_March_2009.pdf

This report includes specific performance indicators and measures of progress toward political, economic, and security stability in Iraq, as directed by legislation. This is the fifteenth report in this series of quarterly reports. The most recent report was submitted in January 2009. The report complements other reports and information about Iraq provided to Congress and is not intended as a single source of all information about the combined efforts or the future strategy of the United States, its Coalition partners, or Iraq.

MILITARY POWER OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA 2009

Annual Report to Congress. Pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2000. Office of the Secretary of Defense. March 2009. 78 pages.

http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pdfs/China_Military_Power_Report_2009.pdf

China’s rapid rise as a regional political and economic power with growing global influence has significant implications for the Asia-Pacific region and the world. The United States welcomes the rise of a stable, peaceful, and prosperous China, and encourages China to participate responsibly in world affairs by taking on a greater share of the burden for the stability, resilience, and growth of the international system. However, much uncertainty surrounds China’s future course, particularly regarding how its expanding military power might be used.

Key U.S. Government Reports

U.S. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY: KEY ISSUES FOR CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT

By the United States Government Accountability Office, Report to Congressional Committees. May 2009. 43 pages.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09679sp.pdf>

Since the September 11, 2001, the U.S. government has spent at least \$10 billion on communication efforts designed to advance the strategic interests of the United States. However, foreign public opinion polling data shows that negative views towards the United States persist despite the collective efforts to counteract them by the State Department, Broadcasting Board of Governors, U.S. Agency for International Development, Department of Defense, and other U.S. government agencies. Based on the significant role U.S. strategic communication and public diplomacy efforts can play in promoting U.S. national security objectives, such as countering ideological support for violent extremism, this report highlights these efforts as an urgent issue for the new administration and Congress.

DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY: STRATEGIC PLAN, MAY 2009

By the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. May 2009. 57 pages.

<http://www.darpa.mil/Docs/StratPlan09.pdf>

This document describes the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's (DARPA) strategy, as required by Section 2352, Title 10 of the United States Code. It provides a top-level view of DARPA's activities for Congress, the research community, and various elements of the Department of Defense (DoD). This strategic plan describes DARPA's mission, business processes, research thrusts and objectives, and research projects to achieve the objectives.

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE: MEASURES TO PREVENT INADVERTENT PAYMENTS TO TERRORISTS UNDER PALESTINIAN AID PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED, BUT SOME WEAKNESSES REMAIN

By the United States Government Accountability Office, Report to Congressional Committees. May 2009. 62 pages.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09622.pdf>

The U.S. government is one of the largest donors to Palestinians. This assistance is provided through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and through contributions to international organizations, primarily the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The Department of State (State) oversees U.S. contributions to UNRWA. To help ensure that U.S. funds for these programs are not provided to individuals or entities engaged in terrorist activities, USAID and State must comply with restrictions under U.S. law. GAO was asked to assess the extent to which USAID has complied with its antiterrorism policies and procedures; and assess State's and UNRWA's policies and procedures to support conformance with U.S. statutory conditions.

GAO reviewed U.S. and UNRWA documents; interviewed USAID, State, and UNRWA officials; and conducted fieldwork in Israel, Jerusalem, and Jordan.

2008 REPORT ON TERRORISM

By the National Counterterrorism Center. April 30, 2009. 78 pages.

<http://wits.nctc.gov/ReportPDF.do?f=crt2008nctcannexfinal.pdf>

Approximately 11,800 terrorist attacks against noncombatants occurred in various countries during 2008, resulting in over 54,000 deaths, injuries and kidnappings. Compared to 2007, attacks decreased by 18 percent in 2008, while deaths due to terrorism decreased by 30 percent. As was the case last year, the largest number of reported terrorist attacks occurred in the Near East, but unlike previous years, South Asia had the greater number of fatalities. These two regions were also the locations for 75 percent of the 235 high-casualty attacks (those that killed 10 or more people) in 2008. Terrorist use of kidnappings for ransom increased significantly in 2008. The number of kidnappings in South Asia during 2008 rose by 45 percent, although kidnappings worldwide remained about the same. The number of kidnappings in Pakistan rose sharply by 340 percent and in Afghanistan by about 100 percent, while in India the number rose by 30 percent.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FOREIGN POLICY: THE FIRST 100 DAYS

Foreign Press Center Briefing, with Mike Hammer, National Security Council Spokesman.

April 29, 2009.

<http://fpc.state.gov/122402.htm>

Mr. Hammer answers journalists' questions about the first 100 days of the President Obama's Foreign Policy.

RELEASE OF DECLASSIFIED NARRATIVE DESCRIBING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL'S OPINIONS ON THE CIA'S DETENTION AND INTERROGATION PROGRAM
U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. April 22, 2009. 17 pages.

<http://intelligence.senate.gov/pdfs/olcopinion.pdf>

The Senate Intelligence Committee releases a document describing the early approval of the CIA interrogation program by the Bush Administration, and the preparation of the Office of Legal Counsel opinions that gave legal approval for the use of specific interrogation techniques. The Committee, under then-Chairman Jay Rockefeller's leadership, has been working with the Bush and Obama Administrations since August 2008 to have this document declassified, long before the decision to release four OLC legal opinions in April.

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WORKERS GIVE THEIR EMPLOYERS HIGH MARKS FOR JOB SATISFACTION AND IDENTIFY REMAINING CHALLENGES, 2008 SURVEY SHOWS

Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Public Affairs Office. April 9, 2009. 2 pages.

http://www.dni.gov/press_releases/20090409_release.pdf

Employees in the Intelligence Community (IC) continue to rate their agencies more favorably than other federal workers assess the government on the whole in overall job

satisfaction, the general quality of managers and senior leaders, and the development of top talent, according to results from the 2008 IC Employee Climate Survey. At the same time, IC workers are critical of remaining barriers to collaboration and seek stronger links between job performance and career advancement, the results show.

AFGHANISTAN: KEY ISSUES FOR CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT

United States Government Accountability Office. Report to Congressional Committees. April 2009. 37 pages.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09473sp.pdf>

The United States has provided approximately \$38.6 billion in reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan and has over 35,000 troops in the country as of February 2009. Some progress has occurred in areas such as economic growth, infrastructure development, and training of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), but the overall security situation in Afghanistan has not improved after more than 7 years of U.S. and international efforts. In response, the new administration plans to deploy approximately 21,000 additional troops¹ to Afghanistan this year, and has completed a strategic review of U.S. efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan.² Based on our past work and the significance of U.S. efforts in Afghanistan to the overall U.S. counterinsurgency strategy, we have highlighted Afghanistan as an urgent oversight issue facing this Congress.

E-Supplement. 6 pages.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09626sp.pdf>

NATO 60TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMIT. STRASBOURG, FRANCE AND KEHL, GERMANY, APRIL 3-4, 2009

The United States Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. April 2009.

<http://nato.usmission.gov/NATOat60/NATOat60.asp>

On April 3-4, NATO celebrated its 60th anniversary at a Summit Meeting of NATO Heads of State in Strasbourg, France and Kehl, Germany. In addition to commemorating six decades of common transatlantic security and values, this Summit marked historic decisions and new commitments made by the Alliance. Summit high points included: two new NATO members: Albania and Croatia; a renewed commitment to Afghanistan, with real deliverables on Election Support Force, operational mentoring and liaison teams, and financial support and a new NATO Training Mission for Afghanistan; the launch of work on a new NATO Strategic Concept; French reintegration into the NATO military command structure; and agreement on a new Secretary General.

Congressional Research Service Reports for Congress

AFGHANISTAN: POST-TALIBAN GOVERNANCE, SECURITY, AND U.S. POLICY

By Kenneth Katzman, Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs. Congressional Research Service. May 22, 2009. 84 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/124078.pdf>

Upon taking office, President Obama's Administration faced a deteriorating security environment in Afghanistan, including an expanding militant presence in some areas previously considered secure, increased numbers of civilian and military deaths, growing disillusionment with corruption in the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai, and Pakistan's inability to prevent Taliban and other militant infiltration into Afghanistan. The Obama Administration conducted its own "strategic review," the results of which were announced on March 27, 2009, in advance of a March 31, 2009 international meeting in the Netherlands and an April 3-4, 2009, NATO summit.

ASSISTANCE TO NORTH KOREA

By Mark E. Manyin, Specialist in Asian Affairs, Mary Beth Nikitin, Specialist in Nonproliferation. Congressional Research Service. May 20, 2009. 21 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/124080.pdf>

This report traces an history of the U.S. aid to North Korea from 1995 through the recent events. It will be updated periodically to track changes in U.S. provision of aid to North Korea.

IRAN: U.S. CONCERNS AND POLICY RESPONSES

By Kenneth Katzman, Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs. Congressional Research Service. May 19, 2009. 68 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/124079.pdf>

President Obama has said his Administration shares the goals of the previous administration on Iran, but his strategies and approaches to achieve those goals differ from those of the Bush Administration. First and foremost, according to President Obama, the new Administration is looking for opportunities to expand direct diplomatic engagement with Iran. His Administration also appears to be de-emphasizing potential U.S. military action, although without ruling that out completely, and is not promoting efforts to promote democracy in Iran. The multilateral efforts to pressure Iran also include three U.N. Security Council resolutions, while Separate U.S. efforts to persuade European governments to curb trade, investment, and credits to Iran are beginning to weaken Iran's economy.

PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS: PROLIFERATION AND SECURITY ISSUES

By Paul K. Kerr and Mary Beth Nikitin, Analysts in Nonproliferation. Congressional Research Service. May 15, 2009. 16 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/124083.pdf>

Pakistan's nuclear arsenal consists of approximately 60 nuclear warheads. It continues fissile material production for weapons, and is adding to its weapons production facilities and delivery vehicles. It reportedly stores its warheads unassembled with the fissile core separate from non-nuclear explosives, and these are stored separately from their delivery vehicles. Some observers fear radical takeover of a government that possesses a nuclear bomb, or proliferation by radical sympathizers within Pakistan's nuclear complex in case of a breakdown of controls. While U.S. and Pakistani officials express confidence in controls

over Pakistan's nuclear weapons, continued instability in the country could impact these safeguards.

U.S. FOREIGN AID TO THE PALESTINIANS

By Jim Zanotti, Analyst in Middle Eastern Affairs. Congressional Research Service. May 15, 2009. 25 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/124085.pdf>

In March 2009, the Obama Administration pledged \$900 million in U.S. assistance to the Palestinians to address both post-conflict humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip and reform, security, and development priorities in the West Bank. Most of the pledged amount remains subject to congressional appropriation. In April 2009, the Obama Administration issued an FY2009 supplemental budget request that included \$815 million in proposed appropriations to benefit the Palestinians. The request also proposed a provision that could apply different conditions than those applied by previous FY2008 and FY2009 appropriations legislation to possible U.S. assistance to a Palestinian power-sharing government that includes Hamas. Additionally, in May 2009, the Administration issued details of a budget request calling for \$500 million in bilateral assistance to the Palestinians in FY2010.

EGYPT: BACKGROUND AND U.S. RELATIONS

By Jeremy M. Sharp, Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs. Congressional Research Service. May 12, 2009. 39 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/124082.pdf>

This report provides an overview of Egyptian politics and current issues in U.S.-Egyptian relations. It briefly provides a political history of modern Egypt, an overview of its political institutions, and a discussion of the prospects for democratization in Egypt.

IRAQ: POST-SADDAM GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY

By Kenneth Katzman, Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs. Congressional Research Service. May 7, 2009. 63 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/124062.pdf>

The Obama Administration is facing a security environment in Iraq vastly improved over that which prevailed during 2005-2007. Recent Defense Department reports assess that overall frequency of violence is down to levels not seen since 2003, yet insurgents are still able to conduct high profile attacks in several major cities. These attacks have not caused a modification of the February 27, 2009, announcement by President Obama that all U.S. combat brigades would be withdrawn by August 31, 2010, leaving a residual presence of 35,000 – 50,000 U.S. trainers, advisers, and mentors, with these to be withdrawn by the end of 2011. This drawdown is in line with a U.S.-Iraq "Security Agreement," ratified by Iraq's parliament on November 27, 2008. However, some believe that insurgents will take advantage of the drawdown and that a U.S. military presence might be needed beyond 2011 to ensure further political progress and produce a unified, democratic Iraq that can govern and defend itself and is an ally in the war on terror.

NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS

By Mary Beth Nikitin, Analyst in Nonproliferation. Congressional Research Service. May 5, 2009. 25 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/124084.pdf>

This report summarizes what is known from open sources about the North Korean nuclear weapons program --including weapons-usable fissile material and warhead estimates-- and assesses current developments in achieving denuclearization. It will be updated as events warrant.

NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT AND DIPLOMACY

By Larry A. Niksch, Specialist in Asian Affairs. Congressional Research Service. May 4, 2009. 25 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/124081.pdf>

North Korea's announcement presents the Obama Administration with two apparent challenges. One is how to restore a negotiating track with North Korea. The Administration appears to face a choice between seeking to bring North Korea back into the six party framework or offering North Korea strictly bilateral U.S.-North Korean negotiations. Responding to North Korea's tough negotiating positions would be a second challenge. Finally, any attempt by the Obama Administration to bring North Korea's highly enriched uranium and proliferation activities with Iran and Syria into negotiations would reverse the decision of the Bush Administration that North Korea did not have to admit to these activities in the Bush Administration-North Korean agreements.

TAIWAN-U.S. RELATIONS: DEVELOPMENTS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

By Kerry Dumbaugh, Specialist in Asian Affairs. Congressional Research Service. May 1, 2009. 30 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/124063.pdf>

Policy toward and support for Taiwan are a key element in U.S. relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC) and an important component of U.S. policy in Asia. Official U.S. relations with the Republic of China (ROC) government on Taiwan became a casualty of the U.S. decision to recognize the PRC government as China's sole legitimate government. Since then, unofficial U.S. relations with Taiwan have been built on the framework of the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act and shaped by three U.S.-PRC communiques. The U.S. policy remains rooted in a general notion of maintaining the "status quo" between Taiwan and the PRC. But other factors have changed dramatically since 1979, including growing PRC power and importance, Taiwan's democratization, and the deepening of Taiwan-PRC economic and social linkages, which is seen by pessimistic observers as eroding U.S. influence and strengthening PRC leverage. This changing dynamic poses increasingly difficult, competing policy challenges for the United States.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS: GENERAL PROVISIONS

By Dianne E. Rennack, Specialist in Foreign Policy Legislation; Lisa Mages, Information Research Specialist; Susan G. Chesser, Information Research Specialist. Congressional Research Service. April 30, 2009. 26 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/122970.pdf>

This report identifies the legislative origins of General Provisions that pertain to foreign aid in the current Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2009. Foreign assistance law requires Congress to authorize funding for programs before appropriated funds are spent. Over time, as enactment of foreign aid reauthorizations waned, the General Provisions of foreign operations appropriations measures increasingly became the place for Congress to assert its views on the role and use of U.S. foreign aid policy, put limits or conditions on assistance, or even authorize new programs.

IRAQ: POLITICS, ELECTIONS, AND BENCHMARKS

By Kenneth Katzman, Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs. Congressional Research Service. April 22, 2009. 15 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/122886.pdf>

Iraq's political system, the result of a U.S.-supported election process, is increasingly characterized by peaceful competition rather than violence, but sectarianism and ethnic and factional infighting continue to simmer. The provincial elections were relatively peaceful and there was a more diverse array of party slates than those that characterized the January 2005 provincial elections. President Obama praised the orderliness and relative absence of violence of the provincial elections -- an outcome that reaffirmed the Obama administration's belief that it can proceed with the planned reduction of the U.S. troop presence without inordinate risk to Iraqi stability. The elections also reduced U.S. concerns about Iran's influence in Iraq, in part because pro-Iranian parties -- particularly those that maintain militias armed by Iran -- fared poorly in the elections.

PIRACY OFF THE HORN OF AFRICA

By Lauren Ploch, Analyst in African Affairs; Christopher M. Blanchard, Analyst in Middle Eastern Affairs; Ronald O'Rourke, Specialist in Naval Affairs; R. Chuck Mason, Legislative Attorney; Rawle O. King, Analyst in Financial Economics and Risk Assessment. Congressional Research Service. April 21, 2009. 31 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/122938.pdf>

Recent attacks, including those on U.S.-flagged vessels, in the waters off the Horn of Africa have brought new U.S. and international attention to the long-standing problem of piracy in the region. Previously concentrated in the Gulf of Aden between Yemen and the northern coast of Somalia and along the country's eastern coastline, attacks on merchant ships are now taking place over an area of more than 1 million sq. miles in the Gulf and the west Indian Ocean, posing a significant threat to commercial shipping. Pirate attacks also have threatened relief shipments bound for East Africa and the countries of the Horn, amid a humanitarian crisis in the region that experts are calling the worst since 1984. Some members of the 111th Congress have expressed concern about the threat posed by piracy,

and President Obama has stated that his Administration is resolved to halt the rise of piracy in the Horn of Africa region.

THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL: ISSUES AND OPTIONS FOR CONGRESS

By Richard A. Best Jr., specialist in National Defense. Congressional Research Service. April 10, 2009. 15 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/122290.pdf>

The purpose of this Report is to describe the statutory provisions that authorize the NIC, to provide a brief history of its work, and to review its role within the Federal Government. It will focus on congressional interaction with the NIC and describe various options for modifying congressional oversight. This Report will be updated as new information becomes available.

THINK TANKS AND RESEARCH CENTERS:

The opinions expressed in these publications do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government

CHANGE WE CAN BELIEVE IN? THE MUSLIM WORLD, AMERICA, AND OBAMA'S PROMISE

By Navtej Dhillon, Laurence Chandy, Geoffrey Gertz. Wolfensohn Center for Development, at Brookings Institution. June 1, 2009. 5 pages.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/opinions/2009/0601_obama_muslim_world_dhillon/0601_obama_muslim_world_dhillon.pdf

In reaching out to the Muslim world, President Obama will invariably touch upon some of the most important concerns and grievances, including the Arab-Israeli conflict and the need to enhance respect and understanding between the U.S. and the Muslim world. The president will outline the contributions and achievements of Islamic civilization, and recognize the economic, social, and political progress underway in several Muslim countries. Reaffirming the U.S.'s dedication to law and a more principled foreign policy, the president will hail the early symbolic successes of his administration such as the commitment to close Guantanamo Bay.

CHINA'S MILITARY AND SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH PAKISTAN

By Lisa Curtis. The Heritage Foundation. May 26, 2009.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/AsiaandthePacific/tst052609a.cfm>

Pakistan and China have long-standing strategic ties, dating back five decades. Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari wrote in a recent op-ed that, "No relationship between two sovereign states is as unique and durable as that between Pakistan and China."

A NUCLEAR TEST FOR THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

By Sheila A. Smith, Senior Fellow for Japan Studies. Council on Foreign Relations. May 25, 2009.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/19480/nuclear_test_for_the_obama_administration.html?breadcrumb=%2F

CFR's Northeast Asia expert Sheila A. Smith says it is imperative for the United States to make it clear that it will not accept a nuclear North Korea. The UN's nonproliferation regime is also facing a moment of truth, she says.

JAPAN'S ECONOMIC WEAKNESS: A SECURITY PROBLEM FOR AMERICA

By Bruce Klingner and Derek Scissors. The Heritage Foundation. May 22, 2009.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/AsiaandthePacific/wm2456.cfm>

Japan's dismal economic performance is constraining American efforts to induce Tokyo to adopt a larger security role.

OBAMA'S GUANTANAMO BLUEPRINT AND AMERICA'S ENEMIES

By Benjamin Wittes, Senior Fellow for Governance Studies. Brookings Institution. May 21, 2009.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0521_detention_wittes.aspx

Benjamin Wittes joined experts in a New York Times running commentary to discuss President Obama's decision to close Guantánamo and the challenges the administration now faces.

INDIA'S ELECTION SHOWS EQUITABLE GLOBALIZATION CAN SUCCEED

By Sadanand Dhume. YaleGlobal. May 21, 2009.

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=12386>

India's Congress Party's big win in the recent election has as much significance for citizens of that country as it does for citizens of the world. It shows that democracy and development can go hand in hand, according author Sadanand Dhume.

WINNING THE INFORMATION WAR IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

By Greg Bruno. Council on Foreign Policy. May 11, 2009.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/19330/winning_the_information_war_in_afghanistan_and_pakistan.html?breadcrumb=%2F

President Obama has made "strategic communications" an essential part of his move to boost the military and nation-building effort in Afghanistan. But experts say countering Taliban messaging will take technology, speed, and demonstrated success in providing security.

OCCUPYING IRAQ: A HISTORY OF THE COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

By James Dobbins, Seth G. Jones, Benjamin Runkle, Siddharth Mohandas. RAND Corporation. May 2009. 35 pages.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG847.sum.pdf

The American engagement in Iraq has been looked at from many perspectives -- the flawed intelligence that provided the war's rationale, the failed effort to secure an international mandate, the rapid success of the invasion, and the long ensuing counterinsurgency campaign. This study focuses on the activities of the Coalition Provisional Authority and its administrator, L. Paul Bremer, who governed Iraq from May 2003 to June of the following year.

THINKING BIG ON NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

By Carlos Pascual, Steven Pifer. Brookings Institution. May 7, 2009.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0507_nuclear_weapons_pascual.aspx

The proliferation of nuclear weapons is one of the deadliest threats to the human race. The United States and Russia can make the world radically safer by shaping a global nuclear regime to reduce nuclear arsenals, raise the bar against nuclear wannabes, and protect nuclear materials from terrorists.

NATO AFTER THE SUMMIT: REBUILDING CONSENSUS

By Robert E. Hunter. RAND Corporation. May 6, 2009. 14 pages.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/testimonies/2009/RAND_CT331.pdf

Testimony presented before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Subcommittee on European Affairs on May 6, 2009.

FROM STRATEGY TO IMPLEMENTATION: THE FUTURE OF THE U.S.-PAKISTAN RELATIONSHIP

By C. Christine Fair. RAND Corporation. May 5, 2009. 11 pages.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/testimonies/2009/RAND_CT330.pdf

Although the collapse of the Pakistani state may not be imminent, as some have recently argued, the government's surrender of the Swat Valley is a major victory for Islamist extremists seeking to carve out pockets of influence within the country. Testimony presented before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on May 5, 2009.

IRAQ: TRENDS IN VIOLENCE AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES: 2005-2009

By Anthony H. Cordesman. Center for Strategic and International Studies. May 5, 2009. 20 pages.

http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/090504_iraq_patterns_in_violence.pdf

The last few weeks have been filled with grim reports of suicide and bombing attacks in Iraq. They serve as a warning that the struggle against Al Qa'ida in Iraq, Shi'ite extremists in the Mahdi Army, and other causes of civil violence are not over. As U.S. officials and commanders have repeatedly warned, the situation is "fragile" at best. At the same time, they need to be kept in perspective. The rise in violence is neither as sudden or as unexpected as some reporting suggests and there is still reason to hope that Iraq can move forward towards security and stability.

EUROPE'S PROBLEMATIC CONTRIBUTION TO POLICE TRAINING IN AFGHANISTAN

By Federiga Bindi. Center on the United States and Europe. Brookings Institution. May 4, 2009.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0504_afghanistan_bindi.aspx

As the NATO 60th anniversary summit was approaching, Europeans were worried about Obama's demands for further assistance, particularly more combat troops in Afghanistan. In the event, though, they were surprised (and relieved) by the attitude of the new administration, which only asked them to contribute in ways and on the terms which Europeans had long asserted best matched their capabilities and public mood. This reflects the fact that European public opinion --generally unfond of Bush's policies, strained by economic crises, lost without inspiring leaders and with a strong suspicion of anything that smells like combat-- is still unconvinced about involvement in the region.

AN EXPANDED MANDATE FOR PEACE BUILDING: THE STATE DEPARTMENT ROLE IN PEACE DIPLOMACY, RECONSTRUCTION, AND STABILIZATION

By Dane F. Smith Jr. Center for Strategic and International Studies. April 30, 2009. 50 pages.

http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/090423_smith_expandedmandate_web.pdf

This first of two related reports examines the evolution of peace building in the U.S. State Department. It begins with a sketch of the role of diplomacy in peace building. It reviews the leadership role of the secretary of state. It proceeds to an examination of multi-bureau involvement in the reconstruction and stabilization efforts in Afghanistan and Iran. It assesses the central role of individual geographic bureaus in particular conflicts and the special peace-building tasks of several functional bureaus. The bulk of the report is devoted to a description and evaluation of the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization. The author concludes that traditional peace-building diplomacy, led by the geographic bureaus, has been uneasily and incompletely yoked with the work of the Coordinator's Office, and he advances suggestions for reform.

FIRST 100 DAYS: GRADING OBAMA'S FOREIGN POLICY

By Michael E. O'Hanlon. Brookings Institution. April 29, 2009.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0429_obama_ohanlon.aspx

It's no great surprise in American politics these days, but already a great partisan debate has broken out about President Obama's foreign policy effectiveness to date. For his enthusiasts, the United States has hit the "reset" button and is reclaiming its place as not only a strong country, but a respected leader among nations. For his detractors, Obama is making the world dangerous by apologizing for America's alleged misdeeds of the past, naively talking with dictators, and cutting the defense budget.

SECURITY IN MEXICO: IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. POLICY OPTIONS

By Agnes Gereben Schaefer, Benjamin Bahney, K. Jack Riley. RAND Corporation. April 28, 2009. 108 pages.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG876.pdf

The security structure in Mexico is characterized by a general instability, along with a lack of coordination among federal, state, and local security forces. The backdrop of a deteriorating security situation in Mexico and change in administration in the United States demands a closer examination of potential priorities and policy options to guide future U.S.-Mexico relations. U.S. aid to Mexico has typically focused on a narrow set of outputs. Despite these efforts, Mexico's security situation continues to deteriorate. To help inform debate, this study examined a set of policy options for the United States, along with promising potential policy priorities. Problems related to drug and human trafficking, corruption, weapon smuggling, and gang violence have spilled into the United States, reaching far beyond the border. For this and other reasons, the United States has a significant stake in the success or failure of Mexico's security reform measures.

MOVING TOWARD EUROPE -- BUT DO AMERICANS WANT TO GO ?

By Michael Barone. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. April 28, 2009.

<http://www.aei.org/article/100425>

As the Obama presidency reaches the hundred-day mark, it is becoming apparent that he would like America to take on a more European cast. Increased government spending, greater government control of health care, and the implementation of a cap-and-trade system are all goals that President Obama has tried to further in his first hundred days. Yet pursuing such policies would end up hindering growth in the name of economic equality, and Americans are ambivalent about moving their country in this direction.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS FROM PAKISTAN

By Lawrence J. Korb, Brian Katulis, Colin Cookman. Center for American Progress. April 27, 2009.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/04/first_impressions.html

The authors left for Pakistan with two main objectives: to gain a fresh, on-the-ground perspective of the very fluid and complicated situation in Pakistan; and to discuss the Pakistan report they released last November, which lays out a strategy for stabilizing Pakistan and the region, with a particular focus on issues of implementation given the dynamic situation here on the ground. As they conduct these meetings, they're also getting an earful on the Obama administration's moves since announcing the results of its policy review on Afghanistan and Pakistan in March.

OBAMA'S 100 DAYS IN FOREIGN POLICY: TRIUMPH OF THE PERSONAL

By Kim R. Holmes. The Heritage Foundation. April 27, 2009.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/NationalSecurity/wm2413.cfm>

In his first 100 days in office, President Barack Obama completed two whirlwind tours of Europe and Latin America. His message on both continents was simple: America has made many mistakes in the past, but we're ready now to listen to others and be more flexible. It was a hugely popular message that brought him thunderous applause, particularly when he criticized or apologized for America --to an extent that no other sitting American President

had done before on foreign soil. The question is whether the President's personal popularity abroad is translating into concrete results for the United States.

THE FIFTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS: RETURN OF THE GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY?

By Ray Walser. The Heritage Foundation. April 21, 2009.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/LatinAmerica/wm2401.cfm>

The Fifth Summit of the Americas was characterized by feel-good rhetoric and the resurrection of FDR's Good Neighbor Policy. However, the real impact of the summit-if there is to be one-will not be clear until the Administration addresses basic challenges.

PURSUING A COMPREHENSIVE VISION FOR THE U.S.-SOUTH KOREA ALLIANCE

By Scott Snyder. Center for Strategic and International Studies. April 2009. 49 pages.

http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/090409_snyder_pursuingcompvision_web.pdf

The scope of common interests represented by the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea has expanded as a result of increasing South Korean capabilities to contribute to security and prosperity on and beyond the Korean peninsula. The U.S.-South Korea alliance can evolve into a fuller partnership that includes new areas of policy coordination and in which needs and responsibilities are shared more equitably. Given that the ROK is the world's seventh-largest economy and the chair of the G-20 during 2010, the Obama administration has a unique opportunity to enhance bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation with South Korea.

RECONCILING WITH THE TALIBAN?: TOWARD AN ALTERNATIVE GRAND STRATEGY IN AFGHANISTAN

By Ashley J. Tellis. Carnegie Endowment. April 2009. 114 pages.

http://carnegieendowment.org/files/reconciling_with_taliban.pdf

Negotiating with the Taliban --who are convinced military victory is within sight-- is the worst possible approach to stabilizing Afghanistan, and one that would fail. Ashley J. Tellis warns that U.S. signals of impatience and a desire for an early exit could motivate insurgents to maintain a hard line and outlast the international coalition. Though costly, a long-term commitment to building an effective Afghan state is the only way to achieve victory and defend U.S. national security objectives.

CUBA: A NEW POLICY OF CRITICAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT

By Carlos Pascual and Vicki Huddleston. Brookings Institution. April 2009. 25 pages.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/0413_cuba/0413_cuba.pdf

This Report of the Brookings Project on U.S. Policy Toward a Cuba in Transition explains that the United States should adopt a policy of critical and constructive engagement, phased-in unilaterally. To this end, it has created a roadmap of executive actions that would allow President Barack Obama to align the U.S. policy with the region and restore normal bilateral relations over time.

OBAMA IN ANKARA: TURKEY'S DANGEROUS DRIFT

By Ariel Cohen and Owen Graham. The Heritage Foundation. April 6, 2009.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Europe/wm2383.cfm>

President Obama's visit to Turkey highlights the importance Washington attaches to this country as a key regional player, a veteran NATO ally, and an influential Muslim state.

OBAMA'S TURKEY POLICY: BRINGING CREDIBILITY TO "STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP"

By Omer Taspinar. Brookings Institution. April 2009. 9 pages.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/articles/2009/03_turkey_taspinar/03_turkey_taspinar.pdf

Under the Obama administration, American foreign policy will be engaged in genuine coalition building with allies. Such a return to multilateralism will have a positive impact on transatlantic and Turkish-American relations. Just like under the Clinton presidency during the late 1990s, Turkey needs American support to undo the deadlock with the European Union. America's return to Middle East diplomacy will also improve Turkish-American relations since the Obama administration is much more likely to support Ankara's openings to Damascus. Turkey should make an effort to host a new Arab-Israeli peace process in the framework of an international conference in Istanbul. In the short run Ankara can avoid problems with Washington on the Armenian issue if it decides to enhance its military and civilian support to NATO forces in Afghanistan.

RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY: SOURCES AND IMPLICATIONS

By Olga Oliker, Keith Crane, Lowell H. Schwartz, Catherine Yusupov. RAND Corporation. April 2009. 14 pages.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG768.sum.pdf

This report has been prepared for the United States Air Force. As Russia's economy has grown, so have the country's global involvement and influence, which often take forms that the United States neither expects nor likes, as the August 2008 conflict in Georgia demonstrated. Despite the two countries' many disagreements and the rising tension between them, the United States and Russia share some key interests and goals. In this monograph, the authors assess Russia's strategic interests and the factors that influence Russian foreign policy broadly. They examine Russia's domestic policies, economic development, and views of the world, as well as how these translate into security policies at home and abroad. They then consider the implications of Russia's evolving approaches for U.S. interests.

POLLS:

WAR ON TERROR UPDATE: CONFIDENCE IN CONDUCT OF WAR ON TERROR REBOUNDS

Rasmussen Reports. May 12, 2009.

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/mood_of_america/war_on_terror/war_on_terror_update

Confidence in America's handling of the War on Terror rebounded slightly this week, but remains near the lowest level of the past year.

SLIGHT MAJORITY GIVES OBAMA POSITIVE MARKS ON HANDLING AFGHANISTAN

The Harris Poll. May 6, 2009. 4 pages.

http://www.harrisinteractive.com/harris_poll/pubs/Harris_Poll_2009_05_06.pdf

Almost six in ten agrees on sending 20,000 additional troops, though few are confident of success.

87% WORRIED ABOUT SECURITY OF PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Rasmussen Reports. May 4, 2009.

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/general_politics/87_worried_about_security_of_pakistan_s_nuclear_weapons

Eighty-seven percent (87%) of U.S. voters are now at least somewhat concerned about the security of nuclear weapons in Pakistan as the radical Islamic Taliban continues to make gains in that country. Sixty percent (60%) are very concerned. Just 10% are not concerned about Pakistan's nuclear weapons in the latest Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey.

ARAB WORLD PERCEPTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Ipsos MENA Poll. May 2009. 16 pages.

http://www.ipsos-na.com/news/client/act_dsp_pdf.cfm?name=mr090511-1ppt1.pdf&id=4385

The Ipsos MENA Poll is unequivocal in showing that President Barack Obama is a very credible messenger in the Arab World. Indeed, those in the Middle East see President Barack Obama in a much more favorable light than the United States in general, indicating a central role for the President in pushing a new agenda in the region.

GROWING MAJORITY OF AMERICANS OPPOSE ISRAEL BUILDING SETTLEMENTS

World Public Opinion. April 29, 2009.

<http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/brunitedstatescanadara/604.php?nid=&id=&pnt=604&lb=>

A new WorldPublicOpinion.org poll finds that three-quarters of Americans think that Israel should not build settlements in the Palestinian territories. This is up 23 points from when this question was last asked in 2002.

58% OPPOSE FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF U.S. TORTURE ALLEGATIONS

Rasmussen Reports. April 25, 2009.

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/general_politics/58_oppose_further_investigation_of_u_s_torture_allegations

President Obama and Senate Democratic leaders are opposed to more investigations of how the Bush administration treated terrorism suspects, and 58% of U.S. voters agree with them. A number of congressional Democrats, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, are pushing for a wider probe.

VIEWS ABOUT TORTURE REMAIN EVENLY SPLIT

Pew Research Center Publications. April 23, 2009.

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1202/torture-terrorists-public-remains-split>

Amid intense debate over the use of torture against suspected terrorists, public opinion about this issue remains fairly stable. Currently, nearly half say the use of torture in dealing with suspected terrorists is often (15%) or sometimes (34%) justified; about the same proportion believes that the use of torture under such circumstances is rarely (22%) or never (25%) justified.

AMERICANS FAVOR NEW APPROACH TO CUBA: LIFT THE TRAVEL BAN, ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

World Public Opinion. April 14, 2009.

http://www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/home_page/600.php?nid=&id=&pnt=600&lb=

A majority of Americans feel that it is time to try a new approach to Cuba, according to a national poll by WorldPublicOpinion.org. More specifically, the public favors lifting the ban on travel to Cuba for Americans and re-establishing diplomatic relations as well as other changes.

37% AGREE THAT U.S. HAS SHOWN ARROGANCE AND BEEN DISMISSIVE OF EUROPE

Rasmussen Reports. April 7, 2009.

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/obama_administration/april_2009/37_agree_that_u_s_has_shown_arrogance_and_been_dismissive_of_europe

Thirty-seven percent (37%) of American voters agree that in dealing with its European allies over the years, the United States has shown arrogance, been dismissive, and even derisive. The latest Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey found that 47% disagree with that assertion and 16% are not sure.

AMERICANS SEE NEWER THREATS ON PAR WITH ONGOING CONFLICTS

Gallup. April 6, 2009.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/117292/Americans-Newer-Threats-Par-Ongoing-Conflicts.aspx>

In a sign of the times, Americans are now about as concerned about Iran's and North Korea's nuclear capabilities and drug violence in Mexico as they are about the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, and international terrorism in general. At least 8 in 10 Americans express some level of concern about each.

57% WANT MILITARY RESPONSE TO NORTH KOREA MISSILE LAUNCH

Rasmussen Reports. April 5, 2009.

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/current_events/general_current_events/57_want_military_response_to_north_korea_missile_launch

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of U.S. voters nationwide favor a military response to eliminate North Korea's missile launching capability. The latest Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey shows that just 15% of voters oppose a military response while 28% are not sure.

Previous issues of Foreign Policy -- Defense -- Documents on the Web are available at:

<http://france.usembassy.gov/web-alert.html>